(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Various provisions under the Contempt of Courts Act 1971 were reviewed recently in pursuance of the recommendations of the P. C. Jain Commission to review old Acts/Rules and it was decided not to amend the Act of 1971, for the present.

Open Ballot System for Elections

4675. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any consultations are going on between the Law and Home Ministries with regard to proposed introduction of an open ballot system to curb rampant use of reported money power in elections recently;

(b) whether the Law Minister has informed the Home Minister that no Constitutional amendment is required as the change could be effected by amendment of some existing rules, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 6th April 2000; and

(c) if so what final decisions Government have taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) In the recently held biennial elections to Rajya Sabha, certain issues like cross-voting and use of money power have attracted much attention. Though some corrective steps, like introduction of open ballot system at these elections, have been suggested, proposals in this regards have, however, not taken any concrete shape so far. In this connection, in response to an informal query by the Home Minister, I have indeed written to him expressing therein my personal views. However, the question being important and sensitive, requires thorough examination before taking any final decision in the matter.

Change in the Principles for Appeals

4676. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have changed the principles for appeals in the High Courts;